Corruption in Hockey Federation of India

283. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 64 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of the letter by six Olympians written to him about irregularities and corruption in the Hockey Federation of India;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action thereon is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Six Olympians had written to Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the functioning; management; financial irregularities etc. of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF). The Ministry examined the issues and sent a detailed response to them. It was informed that IHF is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and it is autonomous in its functioning. The Government of India only supplements its efforts by providing assistance under various schemes of the Ministry and Sports Authority of India (SAI). Moreover, 'sports' figures in the State list of the Constitution and the Central Government does not have the mandate to frame laws on any sports related issue. Hence, the guidelines of this Ministry under which assistance is provided to recognized NSFs are administrative in nature without requisite legislative backing. Recently, the issue of tenure and management of IHF has also been raised in a writ petition filed before the Delhi High Court. The matter is still *sub-judice*.

Other issues raised by the Olympians included training and other facilities given to the hockey players for playing international matches; little pocket allowance to hockey players; selection of coaches and managers etc. Here, it is mentioned that the Government is providing assistance to IHF for training and participation of Indian hockey teams in international events towards passage cost with incidentals, board/lodging of team members and other admissible related expenses as per entitlement and scale in force. Apart from this, SAI organizes coaching camps of

national teams. Government of India makes payment for pocket money only for tournaments such as Olympics/Asian/Commonwealth Games and the concerned NSF is required to make such payment for other exposures out of their own resources. Selection of coach and manager is part of the internal functioning of IHF. If IHF seeks payment of the remuneration to coaches, it has to follow Government norms for the same.

As far as the issue of post retirement benefits to hockey players is concerned the Ministry has informed the Olympians about the Pension scheme for meritorious sports persons being operated by the Ministry. Regarding financial irregularities, they have been informed that requisite permission has been issued to Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) for audit of accounts of NSFs getting assistance exceeding Rs. 1 crore in a year and IHF is one of them. Moreover, this Ministry releases the second instalment of assistance of an NSF only on submission of audited accounts of the first instalment.

Honour for sports talent

284. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about media reports about outstanding performance of Indian Sportswoman, Ms. Sania Mirza;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to develop the rare sports talent with a view to encourage youth of the country to actively participate in sports and games to bring our sports standards to the Olympic level; and

(c) what honour has been bestowed on our proven sports talent, especially the females in the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements the following schemes for development of talent and promotion of sports:-

(i) Special Awards to Medals Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches;

(ii) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award;

(iii) Arjuna Awards;